



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor 2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs)

Helping out

Sgt. Samuel Johnston, of Sacramento, Calif., takes a turn using a homemade lawnmower on a farm in Sha'ab, Baghdad May 11. Johnston, from B Co, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, wandered onto the farm looking for signs of roadside bombs being planted in the area.

Air Cav provides support in search for Soldiers

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMPTAJI, Iraq - The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, is maintaining 24-hour full spectrum operations dedicated to the search and rescue of three missing Soldiers.

Since May 12, pilots and Soldiers from 3rd "Spearhead" Battalion, 227th Aviation

Regiment - a UH-60 Black Hawk battalion - have been conducting hasty air assaults and air movements of Soldiers and cargo around the clock supporting the search for the missing Soldiers, said Eagle River, Alaska, native Maj. Gail Atkins, the operations officer for 3-227th.

Spearhead has also assisted in an information campaign by dropping leaflets onto the

battlefield in an effort to recover information about the missing Soldiers' whereabouts from the locals, said Atkins.

"Both the air to ground integration and also the air to air integration has worked well ... and I hope it has provided ... the support that they've needed," she said.

"Our aircrews, our maintenance - everybody is surging right now to ensure that we

leave no gaps in coverage," said Atkins.

Along with 3-227th, the 4th "Guns" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter battalion, is providing support to the recovery effort, as well.

Since their first response to the attack that morning, 4-

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1st Cav teens cheer on Round Rock Express

By Sgt. Cheryl Cox
1st Cav. Public Affairs

ROUND ROCK, Texas - With rally towels and baseball gloves in hand, First Team Family Members cheer on the members of the Round Rock Express baseball team during their game at Dell Diamond Field May 12.

At least once a quarter, the Teen Family Readiness Group puts together an event for those military kids aren't kids anymore, but aren't yet adults.

"The Teen FRG really hits home for me," explained Col. Larry Phelps, the 1st Cavalry Division (rear) commander, during the final inning of the game. "I noticed during my past deployments that my deployments had a greater impact on my teens than my little guy."

In seeing this first hand, Phelps knew that with this deployment it was important to do something special for this age group.

"All these kids are missing



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox 1st Cav. Public Affairs)

First Team family members flip rally towels above their heads during a Round Rock Express game May 12. The teenage Family Members of deployed 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers enjoyed the game as part of the Teen Family Readiness Group program.

their parents right now," he continued, "But doing stuff like this gives them a chance to come together and do something fun, while giving their currently single parent a night off."

One of the teens who especially enjoyed the game was Paul Livengood, son of Command Sgt. Maj. Tim

Livengood of 15th Personnel Support Battalion, who spent most of the three hour game trying to catch a foul ball.

"I really like baseball, so this is great for me," he said. "But it's just fun to come out here support the moms and dads in events like this. Plus, it gets your mind off the fact that

your parent is gone for little while."

And that is what it is really all about - if only for a little while - forgetting that your parent is in a combat zone.

Each time the Teen FRG gets together they try to do something different for the kids.

"So far we have taken the kids roller skating, to a rodeo and now to a baseball game," said Sgt. 1st Class Shannan Shipman, the FRG liaison. "We aren't sure what the next event will be yet, but so far the kids have really enjoyed all the events."

With the summer coming on fast, the FRG is looking to plan an event for all three age ranges of kids - little kids, tweens and teens.

"The best way I have found to get ideas for the next event is to talk to the kids," said Phelps. "So on our way back to Fort Hood, we will talk to the kids and find out what kinds of ideas they have for what they would like to do next."

Arabic Phrase of the Day

azwiya

**Defined:
lights**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 101
Low: 76



Tomorrow

High: 102
Low: 77



Saturday

High: 102
Low: 78

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Baghdad in Brief

Apache crew destroys concealed insurgent targets

BAGHDAD - Multi-National Division - Baghdad attack helicopters destroyed two insurgent vehicles May 15.

An AH-64D Apache helicopter crew from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division destroyed two insurgent vehicles with weapon mounts while they were concealed in an orchard, possibly destroying a cache of weapons, as well.

The Apache was conducting a reconnaissance mission supporting the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, when the crew spotted the trucks and potential cache.

The crew positively identified the targets and received clearance to engage the three targets. All three targets were destroyed.

ISF rescues retired Iraqi Army general from kidnappers

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Security Forces, acting on a tip from a resident, rescued a retired Iraqi Army general from kidnappers in a southwestern Baghdad neighborhood May 15.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division, a Kurdish battalion, found the man, a retired Sunni brigadier general, who resides in the Rashid District, after his captors beat him and threatened to kill him.

The retired Iraqi general, whose name is being withheld for security reasons, told his rescuers he was taking his car to a repair shop when armed men in masks blocked his passage. The assailants pulled him from his vehicle and took him to an abandoned house. Once there, they began to beat him with cables and tortured him for several hours.

Iraqi Army troops entered the house and took the man to the nearest clinic, where he was treated for contusions and lacerations.

The kidnappers, who are suspected of being part of a Shia insurgent cell, escaped with the general's car, money and cell phone, but he was grateful for his life.

The incident is under investigation.



(U.S. Army photo)

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 3rd "Spearhead" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, drops leaflets onto the battlefield to solicit help from the area residents. This is in support of efforts to find three missing Soldiers. The Spearhead Battalion continues to support the search operation with 24-hour support through air assaults and re-supply of essential cargo.

Troops search for missing Soldiers

Search

From Page 1

227th has kept two teams of Apaches in the air to support the mission 24 hours a day, said Rockford, Ill., native Capt. David Roman, battle captain and Apache pilot for 4-227th.

"We've flown approximately 353 hours since the event," he said.

Because the Soldiers searching on the ground are stretched throughout a large area, not only do they need supplies taken to them, but they need help relaying information to their headquarters, said Roman.

"One of the best ways we've been combat enablers for them is through reconnaissance and radio retransmissions - being able to talk to them and enable their communications," he said.

One of the main roles of an attack pilot is to deliver accurate fire to protect the troops on the ground. This role has played out many times since the operation has started, Roman said.

So far they've supported numerous air

assaults, responded to multiple improvised explosive device attacks, supported medical evacuations, responded to troops under fire and even tracked an insurgent.

Both the maintenance teams of 3-227th and 4-227th have been working overtime to keep the scheduled maintenance on time, as well as keep the unexpected maintenance issues resolved so that there is continuous coverage for the Soldiers conducting the search and rescue mission, said Atkins.

Although the mission to find and rescue the missing Soldiers is the top priority to the 1st ACB right now, the normal missions must continue throughout the Baghdad area of operations, said Atkins.

"We are sustaining our current mission set while providing the direct support to (the search operation). This is the A-number-one mission," she said. "We're going to continue to provide assets to it until we bring these guys out."

U.S., Iraqi aviators share day of partnership

By Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Iraqi Air Force personnel and Soldiers and leaders of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, shared a day of partnership here with a static display of aircraft and a couple of social events May 5.

The day began with a static display in which pilots and maintenance Soldiers from 1st ACB explained the capabilities of the aircraft in the brigade's inventory: the AH-64D Apache, the UH-60 Black Hawk, the CH-47 Chinook and an unmanned aerial vehicle. The event also included a formal dinner followed by a casual smoker.

Although there was no joint training, it was a day of bonding for the Iraqi and American troops and marked the first time the Iraqi aviators had visited the U.S. side of Camp Taji.

"It was wonderful," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Victor Dabney, a native of Camden, S.C., and the standardization officer for 1st ACB. "I wish we could do more, spend more time together. It's always better to get to know one another. We realize we have a lot in common in the things we like and dislike. You find a common

ground and you build on that. You also find areas that may be sensitive and that you should stay away from."

Iraqi Air Force leaders said they valued the interaction with their American counterparts from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade and the Coalition Air Force Transition Team, which conducts training missions with the Iraqi Air Force.

"God bless the United States; they came to help us," said Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Tallal through a translator. For security reasons, the Iraqi Air Force leaders are not fully identified. "The United States is the top country as far as technology goes. We are trying to learn this technology. We would love to be able to (train with the U.S. forces) every time we meet, and we are thankful for this partnership."

Tallal spoke of the cultural differences and a difference in liberties afforded to troops in the two countries' militaries.

"There are many cultural differences (between the Iraqi and American forces), and a difference in the way soldiers are treated," Tallal said. "Because we served in a dictatorship, our soldiers were abused and treated poorly. We look at (American) technicians who work on the aircraft, and I was surprised to learn that many of them

have college degrees."

Both Tallal, and the commander of the Iraqi Air Force, Brig. Gen. Sati, said that Iraqi forces have had to adapt to U.S. military procedures after years of training under British techniques.

"We are learning the American ideology and adapt ourselves to their systems," Sati said, through a translator. "Right now, we have two problems. First, we have found that we were in darkness for a long time. We were not able to participate in the evolving technology of the last 25 to 30 years."

"The second problem is that we have followed the British military system from the late 1920s until the United States (military) came to Iraq" and the Air Force personnel had to learn U.S. airspace and communication procedures, he said.

Although issues like these came to light during the day's events, the day was really about the two nations' troops spending some time getting to know each other - or getting to know each other better, in some cases.

"I developed a relationship when I was here before (2004-2005) with some of these same gentlemen, and I have carried on with that this time," Dabney said.

Dabney said he often shares items that he receives in care packages with his Iraqi counterparts and visits them every few weeks.

"I just go over sometimes and talk to them and see if everything is OK, if there is anything I can do for them," he said. "Sometimes, we just sit around and drink tea and chit chat."

Partnership events like this and continued training will eventually lead to the day when the Iraqi Air Force takes on the aviation mission in Iraq, Dabney said.

"The ultimate goal is that they pick up the whole mission, and it's rocking along pretty well," he said. "Last time we were here, they had no aircraft. They had maybe five pilots here, a couple of mechanics - this was two and a half years ago. Now, they have 15-20 (UH-1) Hueys and some MI-17s. There has been huge progress just in the last six months."



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert 1st ACB. Public Affairs)

Pilots from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade explain the capabilities of an AH-64D Apache May 5 to members of the Iraqi Air Force. The American and Iraqi aviators came together for a day of partnership that included a static display, dinner and smoker.